

Appln No. 10/623,528. Filed 07/22/2003 Response to Final Action of 04/18 /2006

Listing of claims

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Currently amended) An orthodontic device for use with orthodontic arch wires comprising:

a device body having labial, lingual, gingival, occlusal, mesial and distal surface portions, the body having therein a mesial-distal extending arch wire receiving slot having one mesial distal extending side open to a device body surface portion to permit insertion of an arch wire into the slot and its removal therefrom;

a pivot member mounted by the device body and establishing a mesial-distal extending pivot axis; and

a shutter member mounted by the pivot member for pivoting movement about the pivot axis between a slot open position in which the open slot side is open, and a slot closed position in which the shutter member closes the open slot side to retain an arch wire in the slot;

wherein the shutter member comprises:

a pivot portion mounted by the pivot member for the pivoting movement of the shutter member; and

a slot closure portion movable with the pivot portion, extending mesially distally with respect to the device body, and in the slot closure position closing the slot open side; and

an attitude controlling spring member constituted by ~~a flexible end~~ an integral extension of the slot closure portion more flexible than the slot closure portion and further from the pivot portion, the extension being of recurved cross section in an occlusal, gingival, labial, lingual plane to have two arms, a first of which is integral with the slot closure portion and the second of which is integral with the first arm;

wherein with the shutter member in slot closed position a free end portion of the second arm spring member extends into the arch wire receiving slot for engagement in a mesial-distal extending plane with an arch wire in the slot, such engagement urging the arch wire into engagement with the respective slot walls.

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25. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 24, wherein in the slot closed position a flexible portion of the integral extension ~~slot closure portion~~ is positively engaged with a surface of the device body so as to preload the flexible portion and urge the second arm free end portion toward engagement with an arch wire in the arch wire slot. ~~engaged with a surface of the device body so as to preload the flexible portion and urge the free end portion toward engagement with an arch wire in the arch wire slot.~~

26. (Currently amended) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 24, wherein a flexible portion of the ~~slot closure portion~~ is of recurved cross section in an occlusal, gingival, labial, lingual plane, and in slot closed position the integral extension is engaged by lateral walls of the device body parallel to the last-mentioned occlusal, gingival, labial, lingual
5 plane to protect it against mesial or distal directed stresses applied thereto.

27. (Original) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 24, and including latch means having latch members cooperating with one another and operative between the pivot member and the pivot portion when the shutter member is in slot closed position to retain the shutter member in that position.

28. (Currently amended) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 25, wherein a flexible portion of the ~~slot closure portion~~ is of recurved cross section in an occlusal, gingival, labial, lingual plane, and in slot closed position the integral extension is engaged by lateral walls of the device body parallel to the last-mentioned occlusal, gingival, labial, lingual plane to protect it against mesial or distal directed stresses applied thereto.

29. (Previously presented) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 25, and including latch means having latch members cooperating with one another and operative between the pivot member and the pivot portion when the shutter member is in slot closed position to retain the shutter member in that position.

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30. (Previously presented) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 26, and including latch means having latch members cooperating with one another and operative between the pivot member and the pivot portion when the shutter member is in slot closed position to retain the shutter member in that position.

Amendment to the Drawings:

During preparation of this response it was noted that in Figures 17 and 18 the reference numbers 40 (pivot pin/s) and 42 (common pivot axis of the pin/s) inadvertently were applied instead to the arch wire 34 in the slot 26. This has been corrected in the replacement sheet 8 attached. In view of the minor nature of the amendment it is believed that an annotated sheet is not required.